



Objective

The student will identify the author's purpose.

Materials

- ▶ Header cards
- ▶ Passage cards

If text in this activity is not appropriate for your students, use text that is more applicable.

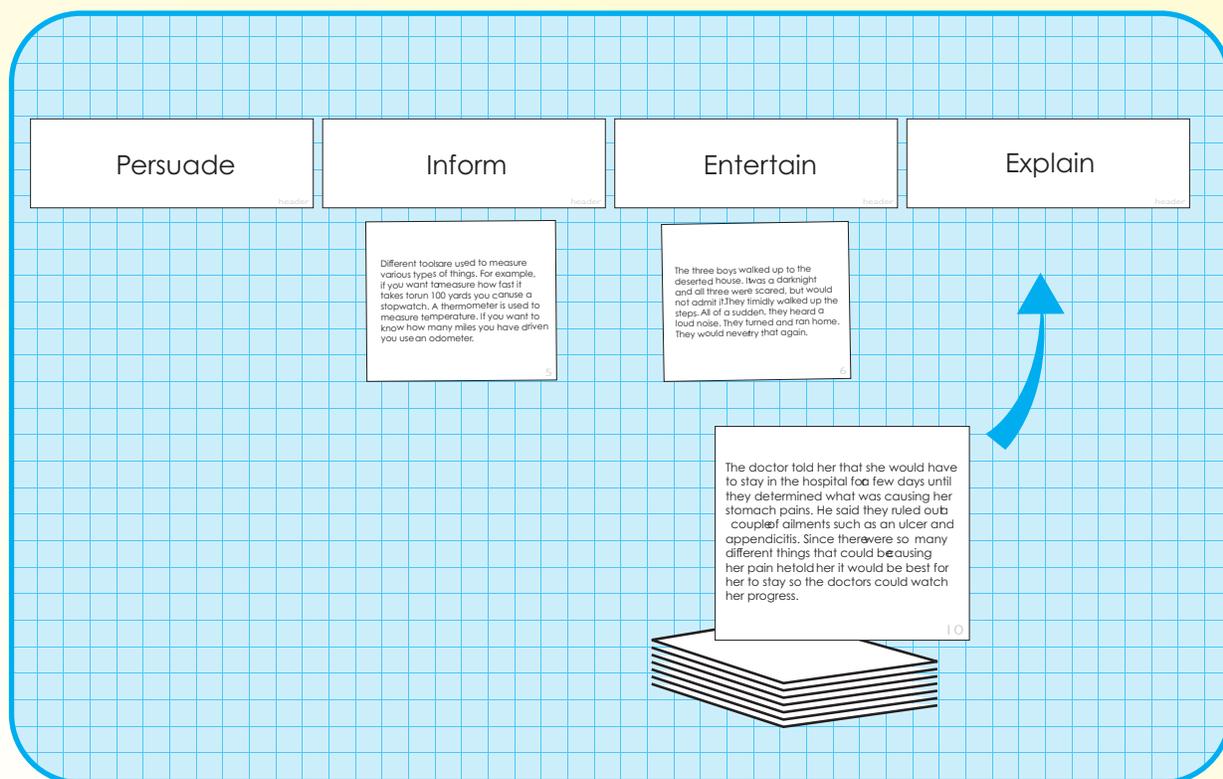
Note: The numbers of the cards correspond to headers in the following manner:

Persuade - 1, 8, 11, 16; Inform - 3, 5, 9, 14; Entertain - 2, 4, 6, 13; Explain - 7, 10, 12, 15.

Activity

Students determine author's purpose by sorting passages.

1. Place header cards face up in a row. Place passage cards face down in a stack.
2. Taking turns, students select the top card from the stack and read it aloud.
3. Determine the author's purpose.
4. Place under appropriate header card.
5. Continue until all cards are sorted.
6. Peer evaluation



The diagram illustrates the sorting activity. At the top, four header cards are arranged in a row: "Persuade", "Inform", "Entertain", and "Explain". Below these headers are three passage cards. The first passage card is under "Inform", the second under "Entertain", and the third under "Explain". A stack of passage cards is shown at the bottom right, with a blue arrow pointing from it to the "Explain" header card.

Persuade header card

Inform header card

Entertain header card

Explain header card

Passage card 3: Different tools are used to measure various types of things. For example, if you want to measure how fast it takes to run 100 yards you can use a stopwatch. A thermometer is used to measure temperature. If you want to know how many miles you have driven you use an odometer.

Passage card 6: The three boys walked up to the deserted house. It was a dark night and all three were scared, but would not admit it. They timidly walked up the steps. All of a sudden, they heard a loud noise. They turned and ran home. They would never try that again.

Passage card 10: The doctor told her that she would have to stay in the hospital for a few days until they determined what was causing her stomach pains. He said they ruled out couple of ailments such as an ulcer and appendicitis. Since there were so many different things that could be causing her pain he told her it would be best for her to stay so the doctors could watch her progress.

Extensions and Adaptations

- ▶ Read passages and write author's purpose.
- ▶ Write other passage cards to sort.
- ▶ Bring in examples of magazine, newspaper, and other articles to discuss and identify the author's purpose (i.e., persuade, inform, entertain, or explain).

Persuade

header

Inform

header

Entertain

header

Explain

header



Comprehension

C. 030

What's the Purpose?

<p>If someone says, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth," that person doesn't really think you will receive a horse or try to open its mouth and look inside. In order to understand what this idiom means it's necessary to know two things. First, a long time ago, people were sometimes given a horse as a gift. Second, it is possible to tell how old a horse is by counting its teeth. If a person was given a horse and then counted its teeth it was considered impolite. This evolved into the current idiom which means when you receive something don't be ungrateful.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>The doctor told her that she would have to stay in the hospital for a few days until they determined what was causing her stomach pains. He said they ruled out a couple of ailments such as an ulcer and appendicitis. Since there were so many different things that could be causing her pain he told her it would be best for her to stay so the doctors could watch her progress.</p> <p>10</p>
<p>The water cycle has no real beginning or end. Water in oceans, lakes, and plants changes into water vapor and seems to vanish from the earth. This is called evaporation. The water vapor cools into tiny droplets which then form clouds. This is called condensation. When the clouds become heavy with these droplets, they fall back to the earth as rain, snow, or sleet. Precipitation is the name for this part of the cycle, which then continues.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Fishing can be fun. The first thing you need to do is bait the hook. Different types of bait are used depending on what you want to catch. Then you either cast the line or drop it into the water. The third step, which can be the most difficult, is to wait until you feel a tug on the line. Then you try to reel or pull in the line. If you do this all successfully your reward will be waiting on the end of the line.</p> <p>15</p>
<p>Everyone should learn how to ride a bike. It is a good form of transportation. It can also be an enjoyable and healthy activity. It is something that can be done alone or with others. You can use a bike to compete in a race or go on a leisurely ride. Bike riding is fun for people of all ages.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Summer is the best season of the year. You can spend all your time outdoors and not get cold. You can swim and enjoy many sports that you can't when it is winter. There are leaves on the trees and flowers are in bloom. You can leave all the windows open in your house. Summer is so pleasant; too bad it doesn't last all year.</p> <p>8</p>

passage cards



Comprehension

What's the Purpose?

C. 030

<p>Buy this DVD now and learn to play the guitar in less than a month. We guarantee that after using our six-step program you will be performing for all your friends. They will want you to entertain at all the parties. So, hurry before our offer ends, and we'll send you a free guitar pick with the DVD.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Cell phones should not be used in public places. They annoy people who are close to the person using the cell phone. Cell phones often ring at inappropriate times. Often the person on the phone speaks too loudly. They can disrupt other people's conversations. If people need to make phone calls in public, they should excuse themselves and go outside.</p> <p>16</p>
<p>She walked along the beach enjoying how the sand felt between her toes. She gathered many different types of shells. As she bent down to pick up another shell she noticed it wasn't a shell. It was a bottle with a piece of paper inside it. She excitedly opened the bottle took out the paper and began to read what was on it.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>We all got excited when our teacher said she had an important announcement. She told us that we had won the contest for reading the most pages in the reading marathon. Each of us would receive a gift certificate to use at the local bookstore. Our class will also be treated to a visit by a famous author. This was such exciting news, I ran home to tell my mom.</p> <p>4</p>
<p>The three boys walked up to the deserted house. It was a dark night and all three were scared, but would not admit it. They timidly walked up the steps. All of a sudden, they heard a loud noise. They turned and ran home. They would never try that again.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Charlie knew that he had waited until the last minute to do his report. As he quickly typed away on his computer, all of a sudden the power went out. He hadn't saved his document. He just stared at the screen in disbelief as all his work disappeared. It wouldn't have been so bad if he had saved it earlier, but he hadn't. Charlie promised himself that this would never happen to him again.</p> <p>13</p>

passage cards



Comprehension

C. 030

What's the Purpose?

The platypus is a different looking animal that lives in the rivers and coastal regions of Eastern Australia. It is a furry mammal, but it lays eggs. It lives near the water and uses its webbed feet to swim. Its nose resembles a duck's bill which helps it as it gathers food such as shrimp. When the platypus swims underwater it closes both its eyes and ears.

3

Different tools are used to measure various types of things. For example, if you want to measure how fast it takes to run 100 yards you can use a stopwatch. A thermometer is used to measure temperature. If you want to know how many miles you have driven you use an odometer.

5

There are many kinds of books. They can be classified in several ways. One way is to label them nonfiction which means that they contain factual information. Another way is to label them fiction which means that they tell a story. Books can be further classified into categories such as biography, historical fiction, and fantasy.

9

Food labels give you many details. The ingredients are listed as well as whether or not the product should be refrigerated. There is one whole section that gives facts about the nutritional components including amount of calories, fat, protein, and carbohydrates. In addition, you'll usually find a date when the product expires and you should throw it away.

14

passage cards



Name _____

What's the Purpose?

C. 030

Text	Purpose Entertain, Explain, Inform, Persuade
<p>Dear Principal Jones, Our class is studying the solar system. We believe that a trip to the planetarium would be a good educational experience and would go along with what we are studying. The planetarium is another way to learn about the solar system and can offer a different experience than we can get in the classroom. We hope you will agree to let us go.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you, Mrs. Smith's 4th grade class</p>	
<p>The game of checkers is a game played with two players. There is a game board with 32 dark and 32 light squares. Each player gets twelve game pieces. Players take turns moving diagonally on the dark squares. A player can capture an opponent's piece by jumping over that piece. When the piece is captured it is removed from the board. A player wins when the opponent cannot make a move or has lost all his pieces.</p>	
<p>The family drove across the United States for a vacation. Although there were times that it seemed very long and tiresome, they all enjoyed it. There were many things to see. Some of the places they went to were the Everglades, Mount Rushmore, and Yellowstone National Park. They all agreed that one of the most exciting things they did on the trip was to fly in a plane over the Grand Canyon. This was one trip they would never forget!</p>	
<p>Recycling is something everyone should do. Our earth is becoming more and more polluted. One thing we can do to help with this problem is to recycle. People can take papers, glass, and plastics to recycling centers or some places will pick them up. Another way to recycle is to use things over again. Wash out a paper cup and use it two or three times before throwing it away. Any little bit will help a great deal, so recycle often.</p>	
<p>Glaciers are large masses of snow, ice, and rock that move very slowly. They are formed when the amount of snow that falls over many years is more than the amount that melts. When a piece of a glacier breaks apart and floats in the water it is called an iceberg.</p>	